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15

Campus Recruiting

UB Debates CIA, Dow Bid

By SUE HEDLING

Opposing sides squared off Thursday at the University of Buffalo during a debate on the issue of whether or not job-recruiters from the CIA and Dow Chemical Co. should be allowed to recruit on campus.

The administration had barred representatives from the two agencies because certain groups had threatened to demonstrate, as an antiwar gesture if recruiting took place. Dow manufactures napalm used in Vietnam.

750 Attend Debate

Monday, the Committee for Concerned Students' (CCS) protested the administrative decision, saying the ban is "inconsistent with academic freedom" and the right of all to be heard.

Thursday's debate, which drew 750 students and faculty members to Norton Hall, took an emotional tone, and arguments ranged from the immediate issue to Vietnam to accusations of conspiracy, and back to the issue again.

"That the Dow Chemical Co. and the CIA should be allowed access to the university for the purpose of recruitment," was the resolution under discussion.

Cites UB Document

Ken Becker, representing the CCS's affirmative stand, argued

that the issue involves academic freedom. He cited the UB administration's "Charter for the Academic Community."

"All students are permitted to speak publicly on any issue," Becker read from the document. "Any person invited by a student or an organization shall be allowed to speak on campus," he continued.

Becker said opposition to this right is an infringement upon academic freedom.

Says It's an Absolute

"Academic freedom is an absolute value," he said, "but morals vary from person to person. No individual has the right to set himself up as judge."

"Who is going to decide which person, which firm, which organization, which professor, or even which student is going to be allowed academic freedom?" he asked.

"To support an individual's right to speak is not to be construed as supporting his views," he said.

To Resist the War

Dr. Don Mikulecky, assistant professor of biophysics, speaking for the negative side, discussed the issue in terms of an antiwar, antigovernment protest.

"Our government is one of the

most illegal and immoral governments on the face of the earth," he said, "and we are fighting against it."

"We'll do all we can to resist the war. You can debate, you can question the legitimacy of our actions, but we have consciences we have to follow," he said.

Reference to Ovens

"The administration passively or actively plays into the hands of those who further the war effort," he said.

"Anything I do to contribute to the success of our country in Vietnam is equivalent to actively or passively putting the Jews into the ovens," he declared.

Dr. Mikulecky said that even if it is more convenient for the student to be able to be interviewed by Dow or the CIA on campus, rather than traveling off campus for an interview, he still opposes the presence of representation of those organizations.

Another Meeting Set

"Morality is more important than your convenience," he said.

The debate did not resolve the question of whether or not Dow and the CIA should come to the campus.

Martin Meyerson, president of the University of Buffalo, has called a meeting for Nov. 13 to further discuss the issue.

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